

Umpqua
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April 10, 1999

William K. Hubbard
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Federal Register Request for Information: Performance Standard for *Vibrio vulnificus* Docket Number 98P-0504 -- Volume 64, Number 13, Page 3300-3301

Dear Mr. Hubbard:

The FDA has requested information on eight points of interest in regards to a petition submitted by the Center for Science in the Public Interest. This petition attempts to bypass the ISSC, an entity that has a proven record of effectively addressing food safety issues concerning the shellfish industry. I encourage the FDA to refer this matter to the ISSC to develop the appropriate criteria and address the eight points FDA raises.

The AmeriPure Co. technology has been on the market for some time. AmeriPure's aggressive marketing tactics have allowed the public adequate exposure to their product. Certainly, if liability conscious restaurateurs had embraced this new technology, the oyster industry would have been flooded with the demand for this processing change from our direct customers. We have not. Given this fact, who's public interest is the CSPI interested in protecting? Why push for such drastic measures which eliminate consumers' free choice? Available science does not suggest the extremist measure called for by the CSPI is warranted.

Given the advancements of modern science, a standard of "nondetectable" levels of anything has become unrealistic and meaningless. Work on this issue by the ISSC must be continued, and funding should be secured to determine the safety standards for these marine pathogens. The safety of our food supply depends on the cooperative efforts of government and industry. Arbitrary regulations serve no ones interest, certainly not the publics.

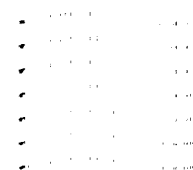
Sincerely,

Cindy Sardina

98P-0504

C58

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